

# BOMB KILLS 29 AND INJURES 200; J. P. MORGAN'S OFFICE WRECKED

## Warning of Catastrophe in Wall St. Section Issued Wednesday

## Mystery Letter Sent

## French Commission Informed That Lives Would Be En- dangered 'at 2.30'

Warning that a bomb plot was to be perpetrated in Wall Street was given at least twenty-four hours before the explosion occurred. Information was received by the French High Commission on Wednesday that the explosion might be looked for.

A letter in a small white envelope was dropped Wednesday morning through the mail slot of a door in one of the offices of the French High Commission at 65 Broadway. This letter, written presumably by a man formerly in the employ of the commission, gave warning of yesterday's explosion. When it was opened and read it was torn into small pieces and dropped into a waste basket.

Yesterday after the explosion these bits of paper were taken from the basket, pasted together, and turned over to the police. The writer of the letter, the police believe, was familiar with all plans for the explosion and would be able to point out the responsible ones.

The letter was addressed to Lieutenant Arnaud, who is attached to the French commission. Upon receipt of the letter Lieutenant Arnaud opened it casually and smiled as he read its contents.

The letter began with the word, "Greetings." The writer said that he thought he was rendering a service to the French Commission by advising Minister Plenipotentiary Maurice Casenave and his assistants of the fact that a catastrophe would occur in Wall Street about 2:30 o'clock. The letter did not say whether it was 2:30 a. m. or p. m. and no date was mentioned.

### Wanted to Save Lives of Office Force

The writer suggested that Lieutenant Arnaud advise Minister Casenave to have the offices of the commission closed and unoccupied at 2 o'clock, so that the lives of the office staff might be spared. The letter also mentioned "between 2 and 4 o'clock daylight time" as the probable hour for the "catastrophe."

It was intimated in the letter that "some people had grievances and wanted to take revenge." The writer requested Lieutenant Arnaud to inform him if he thought the writer was making a mistake in giving such a warning.

Lieutenant Arnaud read the letter several times. Feeling assured that it had been written by an alarmist and should not be taken seriously, he tore it up and threw it into a waste paper basket. He then dismissed the incident from his mind.

After the explosion Lieutenant Arnaud remembered the letter. He rushed into the office where he had been sitting when the letter was received and emptied the contents of the basket in a heap on his desk. In the pile were the bits of the letter he had destroyed. He carefully sorted them, pieced them together and put in a call for the police. The letter was turned over to detectives from Police Headquarters.

Efforts to learn whether the letter bore a signature proved futile.

### Police Hunt Ex-Employee of Commission

Soon after the letter had been handed to the police it was learned that detectives had been sent to West Ninety-second Street to seek a man formerly in the employ of the French commission. It was said that he left the service of the French government on September 1, 1919.

After detectives had examined the letter it was turned over to Deputy Police Commissioner Joseph A. Faurot.

George W. Ketchledge, of 2025 Broadway, employed by the brokerage firm of B. F. Schwartz, of 2 Broadway, said yesterday that two days ago he received word that an explosion would occur in Wall Street on September 15.

On a postcard sent to Mr. Ketchledge from Toronto was the warning: "Be out of Wall Street after 3 o'clock on September 15." The card was from a friend who, four days ago, had suffered a mental breakdown. "I regarded the card as a joke," said Mr. Ketchledge, "and I believe it was merely a coincidence that an explosion should have occurred at about the time stated in the warning."

Efforts to get into communication with the writer of the postal card were unavailing last night. He is said to have left Toronto Tuesday night for an unknown destination. He previously had registered at the Queen's Hotel, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Detectives in the William J. Burns agency also said yesterday that the explosion was not unexpected, although no clues were obtainable in advance to prevent it. Mr. Burns said that the explosion unquestionably had been deliberately planned, and that warnings that radicals were about to initiate a new stage of terror had been sent out to his clients several days ago.

## Bomb in Destroyed Wagon Said to Have Caused Blast

The explosion which turned Wall Street into a shambles at noon yesterday was the result of a deliberate and well prepared plot, according to Federal and city officials, after an extensive investigation at the scene of the tragedy. These based their conclusions upon the following facts:

First, investigation shows that no wagon carrying explosives from authorized sources was in lower Manhattan yesterday.

Second, the effect of the explosion was far greater than any that could be produced by an ordinary explosive carrying wagon.

Third, iron missiles, made from broken up window sash weight—unlike any in the Wall Street district—caused all the damage to buildings and were responsible for many of the casualties.

Fourth, the coincidence of time and location of the explosion.

Fifth, the fact that three men were observed running east on Wall Street about two minutes before the explosion. These men are reported to have fled in a waiting automobile.

## The Center of the Explosion



This photograph, taken ten minutes after the detonation, shows Wall Street between the Morgan Building and the Assay Office. The ruins of the wagon supposed to have carried the explosive lie directly behind the overturned automobile.

## Nation-Wide Plot Feared At Capital

### Special Guards Posted at Treasury in Washington and Other Cities as Se- cret Service Begins Hunt

A report of the Wall Street explosion was sent to the Department of Justice in Washington by the local office soon after it occurred yesterday, and the activities of Federal detectives indicated a suspicion that the explosion might be part of a plot which extended to other cities.

Extra guards were stationed at the United States Treasury in Washington and will be maintained, Secretary Houston said, until the investigation into the explosion was complete. Other protective measures were adopted, and in Philadelphia and other cities which have cause to remember the mail-bomb plot of last year similar guards were set about banks and public buildings, while squads of Federal detectives departed on mysterious missions.

### Mysterious Orders Issued

Within two hours of the explosion agents of the Department of Justice and the Secret Service in Philadelphia had received complete details from New York and Washington, and had received orders the nature of which they would not reveal.

The word went out about the Federal Building here that the officials were satisfied that the explosion had been a bomb plot and that a speedy check-up was being made in all the haunts of the radicals in this city.

Coler was lent to this by the speedy mobilization of Federal agents and their dispersal through the city. The belief was that before the night was over there might be raids to arrest the leaders of the radical movement.

The Philadelphia police attribute the explosion to the same group that placed the series of bombs here a little more than a year ago, when the homes of E. T. Trigen, president of the Chamber of Commerce; a judge, a clergyman and several others were ruined by bombs.

With the arrival of the word from (Continued on next page)

### U. S. Squad to Hunt Reds Disbanded Wednesday

### Federal Force Trained to Trace Anarchists Released to Cut Down Expenses

The "Red" squad of the Department of Justice, which has been active for months in tracing the movement of dangerous radicals and their ilk, was disbanded last twenty-four hours before the Wall Street explosion of yesterday.

It was said that a desire to effect economies and the fact that "Red" violence was on the decrease were the motives which inspired the dissolution of the "Red" squad.

## The Identified Dead

ARAMBARRY, JOSEPH, twenty-nine years old, a clerk, 128 Sherman Avenue.

ASBRY, THOMAS, twenty-four, a runner, 136 Chester Avenue, Brooklyn.

DICKINSON, CAROLINE, forty years old, 73 Hanover Street, Elmhurst, L. I.; employed as stenographer by the brokerage firm of George H. Burr & Co.

DRURY, MARGUERITE A., twenty-nine years old, of 132 Ridgewood Avenue, Brooklyn, a stenographer, employed by Curtis, Mallet-Prevost & Colt, 30 Broadway.

ELLSWORTH, R., 64 Liberty Street, West Orange, N. J.

ELSWORTH, P., fifty-two, of 1248 Gerard Street, Washington, D. C.

FLANNERY, BARTHOLOMEW, nineteen, a messenger, 310 West 145th Street.

HANRAHAN, CHARLES, seventeen, Brooklyn.

HUTCHINSON, WILLIAM F., thirty-two years old, an insurance broker of 120 Broadway.

JACOBS, IRVING D., a curb broker, of 50 Broad Street.

JOHNSON, JOHN, fifty-five years old, of 60 West Eighty-fourth Street; a porter in the Bank of America, 44 Wall Street.

JOYCE, WILLIAM, employed in the investment securities department of J. P. Morgan & Co., son of T. W. Joyce, head of the gold shipment department of J. P. Morgan & Co.

KENNEDY, BERNARD J., thirty years old, of 443 Tenth Street, Brooklyn. Body identified at the morgue by friends.

LINDROTH, CHARLES A., twenty-two years old, of 133 Bennett Street, Great Kills, Staten Island; a clerk in the National City Bank.

MAYER, ALFRED, of 511 West 138th Street.

MCCLEURE, COLIN BARR, twenty-five years old, a banker, of 13 Arthur Street, Yonkers.

McKEAN, JEROME H., a chauffeur.

MILLER, FRANK, 700 West 179th Street.

MOLYNEAUX, E. W., sixty-five, 173 St. Nicholas Avenue.

NEVILLE, COLONEL CHARLES A., attached to the United States Army Quartermaster depot.

OSTREY, THOMAS M., twenty-four, a messenger, 136 Chester Avenue, Brooklyn; employed by Johnson & Wood, brokers, 115 Broadway.

PORTONG, RUDOLPH, twenty-eight years old, of 26 McAuley Avenue, Jamaica, L. I.; a teller in the National City Bank.

SCHMIDT, JOSEPH, thirty, Second Street, Bayside, L. I., a clerk.

SMITH, LOUIS K., 136 Greenwich Street, Hempstead, L. I.

SWEET, E. A., Huntington, L. I.

SOWALOW, BENJAMIN, sixteen years old, a messenger, 1520, Lincoln Place, Brooklyn; employed by Blum & Sties, brokers, 80 Pine Street.

WESTRAY, ROBERT, sixteen years old, of 232 West Twenty-fourth Street.

ZYLANDER, MILDRED, 44 Commerce Street, Westbury, L. I.

[Two clerks employed in the loan department of the National City Bank have not yet reported at the bank or at their homes. It is not known, however, whether or not they were among the victims of the explosion. They are: James Boyd, twenty-one years old, of 154 Norman Avenue, Brooklyn; and Harold Beatty, eighteen years old, of Elizabeth Avenue, Ridgefield, N. J.]

## The Injured

### AT BROAD STREET HOSPITAL

ASHLEY, ANTHONY, 3148 Decatur Avenue, the Bronx, lacerations of jaw and wrist.

BANKER, WESTON, 229 Baltic Street, Brooklyn, face and hands burned.

BECKMAN, JOSEPH, no address.

BOWMAN, WILLIAM, 25 South Street, shock.

BRAND, ROBERT, no address.

BURLBURG, JOHN, 166 East Fifty-fourth Street, lacerated neck and head.

## Panic Amid Ghastly Scene Of Wreckage

### Dead Scattered in Debris, Thousands Flee Seek- ing Safety and Gries of Injured Fill the Air

Wall Street east of Broad instantly after the explosion presented a picture of grim tragedy. On the steps of J. P. Morgan & Co.'s building, on the corner, lay three bodies. Across the street on the sidewalk, in front of the United States Assay Office, were stretched the bodies of a man and a woman. Two more bodies of men, who a second before had formed part of the financial district's noonday activity, lay on the sidewalk just around the corner in Broad Street, and halfway up Wall Street, toward Broadway, where the steeple of Trinity Church overlooked the scene, another body was found.

But the sight of bodies formed only a part of the picture. Added to it was the ruin to buildings wrought by the explosion. The horse which had drawn the wagon supposed to have contained the explosives was torn to shreds and lay in a pool of blood in the middle of the street. Articles of apparel—a woman's hat, a shoe and a piece of a man's coat—were scattered among the broken glass and debris showered down from adjacent skyscrapers. Across the sidewalks and down the steps of the United States Sub-Treasury, where many of the injured had sought safety, trickled streams of blood. An automobile, twisted into a mass, had been picked up and cast against the Morgan Building.

Broken Glass Covers Sidewalks  
High above where the concussion and the flying pieces of iron had struck in all directions the explosion evidenced itself by the broken windows, which for more than thirty minutes (Continued on page six)

### U. S. Troops on Scene Within Forty Minutes

### One Hundred Arrive From Fort Jay, and, With Bayonets Fixed, Clear the Streets

Acting on emergency orders, fifty United States soldiers—Company M, 224 Infantry Regiment, stationed at Fort Jay, Governor's Island—were at Broad and Wall streets yesterday within forty minutes after the explosion, which was plainly heard on the island. Within another twenty minutes, Company K, another fifty men, arrived from the same station. The men were transported on motor trucks and carried their bayonets fixed and one hundred rounds of ammunition to the man. A squad armed with light Browning automatic rifles began to pace the United States Sub-Treasury area immediately upon arrival.

Company M, the first to arrive, was commanded by First Lieutenant Benjamin Pelton, and Company K by Captain D. J. Appleman. Lieutenant Pelton first set his men to clearing the streets and then lined them up for the protection of the Sub-Treasury. Captain Appleman's men upon arrival lined up before the Morgan bank.

## Blast of Loaded Slugs Rocks Financial District at Noon; Property Loss Great

## Dead May Reach 50

## Wagon Painted Red Seen Shortly Before Explosion; Three Inves- tigations Already Under Way

An explosion believed to have been caused by the most powerful infernal machine ever devised wrought destruction and death yesterday noon at Wall and Broad streets.

Chief Inspector Lahey of the Police Department has evidence, he said, that the explosion was that of a huge bomb loaded with slugs and charged with TNT, one of the most powerful of explosives.

At least twenty-nine persons were killed and at least two hundred injured. It was said at the Morgue last night that the list of dead might be swelled to fifty when those dying during the night in hospitals were reported. Windows were shattered for two blocks around, and the damage from this cause alone, exclusive of that suffered by the offices of J. P. Morgan & Co. and the United States Assay Office, which bore the brunt of the explosion, was estimated at nearly \$1,000,000.

Cast iron slugs, made from window sash weights, which had been broken up, were volleyed in all directions, one of them crashing through the skylight of the forty-story Equitable Building. These slugs, together with the fact that the explosion took place at the very center of the financial world and at 12:01 precisely, form the basis of the generally accepted theory that an infernal machine, and not an accident, caused the explosion.

### Wagon Painted Red Seen in Wall Street

Of the wagon, said by witnesses to have been painted red and of the kind used by grocers for deliveries, and which housed the engine of destruction, only a few fragments could be found. Drawn by a plodding horse, it was seen coming up Wall Street from the east a few minutes before 12 o'clock. Some of those who saw it declared that it bore the name of a manufacturer of explosives.

It stopped at the curb just about at the dividing line between the Assay Office, where \$900,000,000 in gold bullion is stored, and the Sub-Treasury, vaults of which hold \$1,000,000 more. Directly across Wall Street is the \$4,000,000 structure which houses the Morgan firm, where, in an office on an upper floor, members of the firm had just seated themselves with a representative of the coal operators to discuss the strike in the anthracite fields.

Half a block to the south the riotous curb market was surging and shouting in the roped spaces of Broad Street. The bell of Trinity sounded noon and like an echo came the bell which marks that hour in the curb market.

While the latter still was chiming, the explosion came. Buildings rocked at the shock. A sheet of flame leaped up that licked through windows shattered by the detonation. Then came a mushroom of smoke, the convolutions of its under surface tinged with sulphurous yellow. For a moment the smoke canopy hung solidly above the financial district. Then it drifted away.

In the streets below all motion was paralyzed for the moment. Three bodies lay on the steps of J. P. Morgan & Co. Other huddled forms were strewn on both sides of Wall Street, and a few more were prostrate on Broad Street. Bits of smoldering cloth which an instant before had formed part of the clothing of men and women were blowing along the sidewalks.

### Panic Among Employees in Many Buildings

An overturned automobile which had stood at the curb near the red wagon, with two women in it, was blazing furiously on the sidewalk. From all sides came the crash and tinkle of falling glass. In a dozen office buildings persons who had been near the windows were beating out flames in their clothing and striving to stanch the wounds glass shards had made.

Others, some of them powerful financiers, were marvelling to discover that they had escaped scatheless, although their desks were littered with broken glass, their window sills scarred by slugs or the glass in the telephone booth in which they happened to be lay in fragments at their feet.

Although timed to explode at the moment when the activities of the world of finance are at their height and placed at the very center of that world, the infernal machine failed to destroy a single financier. One employee in the Morgan offices was killed, Junius Spencer Morgan suffered a cut on the hand. Robert Bacon, who was with him in conference, was slightly hurt.

The victims were chance by-passers, men and women of the more ordinary walks of life, whose business, pleasure or fate had called them at that hour to that spot.

The walls of the new Assay Office and of the Morgan Building showed scars where slugs had struck. Window sills and cornices had been chipped by the missiles. All the windows in the Assay Office were shattered and the steel casements in which the panes were set were bent inward.

### Work of Rescue Started by Those Injured

Not a sound pane of glass remained in the Morgan Building. Even the heavy plate glass panels in the doors were broken. Screens of copper mesh which were set inside the windows were bent and twisted, but had fulfilled their mission of protecting those within. Fragments of the glass dome above the main office lay on the floor, and one of these, or some similar bit of falling debris, is believed to be responsible for the single death that occurred there. The streets were covered with broken glass, some of it finely powdered, like sugar.

The heroic statue of Washington on the steps of the Sub-Treasury was not so much as scratched by the explosion, and stood firmly, with hand outstretched in a quelling gesture.

Those who merely had been thrown to the ground by the shock set about rescue work as soon as they regained their feet. White-clad surgeons soon were at their elbows, for the clangor of arriving ambulances and fire apparatus filled the air while glass still was falling.

Police were sent to the scene in force and established lines two blocks from the corner where the explosion occurred. Within forty minutes of the blast, army trucks came lumbering up Broad Street from South Ferry and fifty men of Company M, 22d Infantry, clambered out and fell in line with fixed bayonets, each man with one hundred rounds of ball cartridges in his pouches.

They had been summoned because of the proximity of the Assay